

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE HABITAT RELATIONSHIPS SYSTEM
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B254 White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*
Family: Columbidae Order: Columbiformes Class: Aves

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

A common summer resident in the Colorado River area; less common in deserts to the west. Breeds in deserts north to Joshua Tree National Monument (Garrett and Dunn 1981). Scarce, but regular in spring and fall on the coast (including Channel and Farallon Islands), and in northern deserts. Has been recorded as far north as Lee Vining, Mono Co. east of the Sierra Nevada, and to Humboldt Co. on the coast (McCaskie et al. 1979). Very rare in winter, mostly along the southern coast, but also in southern interior. Inhabits desert riparian, desert wash, desert succulent shrub, desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, and Joshua tree habitats as well as orchard-vineyard, cropland, and pasture habitats.

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Eats seeds and grains on the ground. Also eats cactus fruits and berries (Bent 1932).

Cover: Uses trees and shrubs, mostly in desert riparian, desert wash, desert scrub, and Joshua tree habitats.

Reproduction: Nest is a platform of twigs in a tree or shrub 1-6 m (3-20 ft) above ground. Often nests in mesquite.

Water: Drinks once or twice a day, or more frequently (Cottam and Trefethen 1968).

Pattern: Roosts and nests in trees or thickets of shrubs. Feeds in fields and in open scrub.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Yearlong, diurnal activity.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Arrives in March, mostly gone by August. Found outside of breeding range in fall and spring migration. Very rare in winter on the southern coast and in the southern interior.

Home Range: No data found.

Territory: Often nests in small colonies, but pair apparently maintains a territory around nest (Goodwin 1977).

Reproduction: Nests May through June, or later; up to 3 nestings per year. Nests in small, loose colonies, or in single pairs. Monogamous; female lays 2 eggs, rarely 1 or 3.

Incubation 13-14 days; fledging 13-16 days, tended by both parents (Cottam and Trefethen 1968, Harrison 1978).

Niche: Eggs and nestlings preyed upon by small mammals, and adults by accipiters and falcons (Bent 1932).

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